



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

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## NORTHERN PLAINS FARM LABOR

LINCOLN, NE, May 21, 2015 -- In the Northern Plains Region (Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota) there were 35,000 workers hired directly by farm operators on farms and ranches during the week of April 12-18, 2015, up 3 percent from the April 2014 reference week, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Workers numbered 28,000 during the week of January 11-17, 2015, unchanged from the January 2014 reference week.

Farm operators in the Northern Plains Region paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.08 per hour during the April 2015 reference week, up 2 percent from the April 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$14.13 per hour, up 70 cents. Livestock workers earned \$13.09 per hour, up 27 cents. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate at \$13.50, was up 35 cents from the 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 39.3 hours during the April 2015 reference week, compared with 39.7 hours worked during the April 2014 reference week.

Farm operators paid their hired workers an average wage of \$14.54 per hour during the January 2015 reference week, up 3 percent from the January 2014 reference week. Field workers received an average of \$14.58 per hour, up 43 cents. Livestock workers earned \$13.41 per hour compared with \$12.60 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$13.80, was up 45 cents from the January 2014 reference week. Hired laborers worked an average of 41.4 hours during the January 2015 reference week, compared with 40.2 hours worked during the January 2014 reference week.

Access the National publication for this release at:

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/FarmLabo//2010s/2015/FarmLabo-05-21-2015.pdf>

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